

Date: March 21, 2023

Bill number: SB0026

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill title: **Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children’s Health Program, and Workgroup on Low-Income Utility Assistance**

DHS Position: **FAVORABLE**

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide written support as amended for Senate Bill 26 (SB 26).

Senate Bill 26 was amended in the Senate Finance Committee to add reporting requirements for the Workgroup on Low-Income Utility Assistance established in Chapters 638 & 639 of the Acts of 2021. The Department of Human Services serves as the primary agency for the workgroup. DHS agrees with the amendment to “submit a final report of the study, findings, and recommendations, including recommended legislation and regulatory changes.”

DHS has already begun working with our sister agency, the Maryland Department of Health, to establish mechanisms to implement the requirements within the bill to “establish an Express Lane Eligibility Program” that would make use of DHS’ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility. The departments will establish appropriate mechanisms to share SNAP administrative records with the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange for use to automate the renewal of Medical Assistance cases.

The Department is grateful to offer our support as amended by the Senate for SB 26 and requests a favorable report from the Committee.

